

U.S. EPA's Contractor Forum
Questions and Answers
Chicago, Illinois
June 19, 2001

1. What contractor qualities are important to EPA in selecting contractors for the various types of contracts (Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contracts vs Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contracts)?

EPA is looking for contractors who can perform the Statement of Work and meet the contract requirements. To determine the selected contractor, EPA reviews the proposal submitted along with the contractors' past performance, technical and management experience, their management of the site (including subcontracts), cost control, quality assurance, regulatory (including safety) requirements, and the type and experience of their personnel, including the availability of personnel.

For the proposal review, EPA evaluates the following:

- a) Preparing and submitting the proposal in accordance with the instructions.
- b) Responding in a clear and concise manner
- c) The offeror's response to the scenarios (when applicable) demonstrating technical ability.

Overall, EPA selects the contractors who have the experience and track record of performing the technical and administrative requirements timely and responsibly for a reasonable cost.

2. Prime contracts and subcontractors have a hard time finding each other, can EPA provide some form of Matching Service to Prime Contractors who are seeking qualified subcontractors with 10 years or more of successful work experience with particular emphasis on Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and small business firms?

EPA does not have a formal process to match prime contractors and subcontractors. Teaming is usually done by the companies that seek out partners. We can suggest joining professional organizations to meet business partners. The associations that focus on doing business with the Federal Government include the National Contract Management Association (<http://www.ncmahq.org/>) and the National Association of Purchasing Management (<http://www.napm.org/>). In addition, we suggest you view EPA's active contract list of the prime contractors that have a current contract with EPA for possible teaming opportunities. The list is available on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/oam>.

3. What is the schedule of rebids for the various regions?

The response action contracts (RACs) begin to expire in 2005 and continue into 2010. The strategy for the follow-on contracts was part of Contracts 2000. There was a sub-level work group for the design-construct contracts that initially determined that the follow-on contracts would be awarded as

separate design and construction contracts. After completion of the strategic portion of the working group, EPA revisited this strategic decision and decided to utilize a menu approach so that the requirements could easily be tailored to meet the goals of national consistency with regional flexibility. Regions would be able to select a “full service contract” which would be a smaller scope RAC look-alike or separate design and separate construction contracts. The schedule for the new awards by region will vary with the expiration of the region’s current RACs. For those contracts expiring in 2005, the re-competitions will likely begin in 2003.

4. What will the new Superfund contracts look like (size, scope, length)? Will each Region have their own contract or will there be zone contracts?

The size and scope will be determined based on the region’s needs from the menu - either full service or separate design and separate construction contracts. The size will also be impacted by the results of the Congressionally-initiated study of a 10 year projection of the Superfund program by the Resources for the Future. The study will identify the proposed funding level requirements starting with 2000. This data, the regional needs, and budget will determine the size of the contracts. We anticipate that each region will have its own contract and that there will be no zone contracts.

5. Will the Response Action Contract (RAC) rebids be done under Brooks Act?

This is dependent on the type of contract awarded. If we award full-service or separate design contracts, the Brooks Act requirements will be included in the contract. If we award separate construction contracts, the Brooks Act procedures will NOT be used.

6. Describe Region 5 resources that are available to contractors who wish to be kept informed of the status of the contracting opportunities. Where can we find future Region 5 initiatives and projected activities? Does Region 5 have a preferred vendor list?

Information on doing business with EPA’s Region 5 is available on the following Internet source:

EPA Acquisition Forecast at: <http://www.epa.gov/oam/main/forecast/>

Doing Business with Region 5 at: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/acquisition/index.htm>

EPA Regional Procurement Opportunities at: <http://www.epa.gov/oam/regions>

Federal Business Opportunities at: <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>

For Region 5, the Team Leader and Contracting Officer for all simplified acquisitions (under \$100,000) for Superfund and non-Superfund requirements and solicitations in excess of \$100,000 for non-Superfund requirements is Gene Jackson who can be reached at (312) 353-5028.

For Region 5, the Team Leader and Contracting Officer for Superfund’s Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) solicitations, contracts, and related requirements in excess of \$100,000 is Robert Dumelle who can be reached at (312) 886-5865.

For Region 5, the Procuring Contracting Officer for Superfund's Remedial Action solicitations, contracts, and related requirements in excess of \$100,000 is Claudea Heise who can be reached at (312) 353-8989.

For Region 5, the Procurement analyst responsible for outreach to small, 8(a), disadvantaged, women-owned, HUBZone, service-disabled veterans for direct and indirect procurement opportunities and preparation of Region 5's Acquisition Forecast is Darlene Hainer who can be reached at (312) 886-6017.

7. How does EPA envision using Contractor support in its implementation of the Brownfields program?

EPA is in the process of conducting 2 competitions for contractors to provide mission-support (advisory and assistance contracts) for the Brownfields program. One is full and open; the other is a small business set-aside. Both contractors will provide support in the research, analysis, implementation, and evaluation of the Brownfields program, including RCRA/Brownfields Prevention Initiative, Sustainable Development and Greenspace, Environmental Justice, and Federally recognized tribes. Several field contractors (Superfund technical and assistance contracts and response action contracts) have the capacity within their statements of work to provide technical support to the Brownfields program mission such as site assessments, but to date they have not been used for this purpose.

8. Please provide a list of contracting personnel at Headquarters and in the Regions.

A list of important points of contact for Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) employees in Headquarters, RTP, and Cincinnati, as well as procurement personnel in the Regions and field offices, can be found on OAM's Internet site in the area entitled "Who's Who and What's What in the EPA's Office of Acquisition Management." The site address is <http://www.epa.gov/oam/main/org>.

9. Please provide examples of A-76 initiatives that EPA is advertising?

EPA has not yet developed a list of services which will be contracted-out via the A-76 process. Once these decisions have been made this information will be available on OAM's Internet site. For more information on the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act (FAIR), P.L. 105-270, visit the Internet at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/fair-index.html>

10. How is EPA measuring up to meet its enterprise architecture plans?

Information about EPA's enterprise architecture plans can be found on EPA's Office of Environmental Information's Internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/oei>.

11. Who in Region 5 can be contacted to discuss contracting opportunities using GSA schedules, and would the Region entertain using this mechanism?

See response to question #6.

12. A) Are there Contracting Officers that deal specifically with MOBIS procurement actions? If so, please provide us with the names and numbers so that we can make them aware of our services.

B) Is there is forecast for MOBIS procurement opportunities?

There is no central list of contracting officers who deal specifically with MOBIS actions because contracting officers at all four of OAM's operating divisions handle these types of orders. Regarding the question about forecasting MOBIS requirements. In instances where we know that a particular requirement will be handled as a MOBIS order, that information is included in OAM's Acquisition Forecast, but there is no separate forecast of these actions.

13. On performance based contracting work assignments where the Contractor has the potential to assume a higher risk or save EPA a significant amount of money, will EPA have the flexibility to go above the maximum incentive fee higher than the traditional 10% award fee?

Yes. The only limitation listed in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) is in Part 15 that limits the maximum fee to 10% for cost plus fixed fee contracts only.